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LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN TERRORISM

Libyan leader Mu'ammur Qadhafi has used terrorism as one of the primary instruments of his foreign policy. The main targets have been expatriate Libyan dissidents and leading officials of moderate Arab and African governments. In addition, Tripoli has provided encouragement, funding, training, and arms to insurgents and dissidents from many countries whose government policies or leaders displease Qadhafi.

The level and types of Libyan terrorism as well as the mix between terrorism and other kinds of subversion have varied considerably over the years, but the goals it is designed to achieve have remained constant:

- to neutralize Qadhafi's domestic opponents abroad.
- to make Qadhafi a recognized leader of the Arab world.
- to make Libya the dominant state in North Africa.
- To establish Libyan political leadership in black Africa, eliminating the French position and influence there.
- to strike at Israel.
- to spread Qadhafi's vision of Islam as a weapon for the Third World in its struggle against colonialism and imperialism.

Attacks Against Exiles

Regime exiles are Qadhafi's leading target. The Libyan Government in 1980 began a concerted effort to assassinate anti-Qadhafi exiles. By the time the first phase ended in 1981, 11 Libyan dissidents living abroad had been murdered. Since then, Qadhafi has alternated between urging the exiles to return home to Libya and ordering new liquidation campaigns against the dissidents among them.

Libya in 1985 sponsored five attacks against exiled Libyan dissidents. Qadhafi maintains a "hit list" of exiles and pursues these individuals whenever the opportunity presents itself. In almost all cases, the assassins use handguns to kill their victims. Qadhafi generally uses Libyans for antiexile operations; for other types of attacks he tends to employ surrogates or mercenaries.

- Libyan exiles were attacked in five different European countries in 1985--Greece, West Germany, Cyprus, Italy and Austria.
- The Libyan exile community in Egypt has also been a frequent target, but Egyptian authorities have been effective in thwarting attacks. A four-man Libyan team was arrested in November during an attempted attack against a gathering of exiles near Cairo.
- Libya also plotted antiexile attacks in the United States. In May 1985, a Libyan diplomat at the United Nations was declared persona non grata and 16 nonofficial Libyans were subpoenaed to appear before a US grand jury in connection with a plot to kill Libyan dissidents in four different states.

#### Plots Against Moderate Arab Officials

Qadhafi also targets moderate Arab governments for their refusal to continue the military struggle against Israel and for their links to the West. Terrorism supplements military threats, vitriolic press attacks, the sponsoring of dissidents, and other types of subversion--interspersed with occasional periods of diplomatic courting.

There have been persistent rumors of assassination plots against such Arab leaders as President Mubarak of Egypt and former President Nimeiri of Sudan. In November 1984, Egyptian security forces arrested four Libyan-hired mercenaries for plotting to kill a prominent Libyan exile. The arrestees stated that Libya's target list for assassinations included President Mubarak as well as prominent Libyan exiles in Egypt.

Qadhafi's primary targets in 1985 were the governments of Egypt and Tunisia.

- Egypt during the year captured several teams of Libyan-supported Egyptian dissidents who reportedly planned to destabilize the government by sabotage and other disturbances.
- Tripoli expelled more than 30,000 Tunisian workers from Libya in August 1985, probably hoping to destabilize Tunisia's shaky economy. Soon thereafter, a Libyan diplomat used the diplomatic pouch to smuggle letter bombs addressed to Tunisian journalists into the country. After two postal workers were injured when several of these bombs exploded, Tunisia severed relations.

### Support to Radical Palestinians

The recent attacks against the El Al Airline counters in Rome and Vienna have focused attention on the alarming links between Libya and radical Palestinians.

- Tunisian authorities announced that the passports used by the Abu Nidal terrorists in the El Al attacks were confiscated from Tunisians when Libya expelled Tunisian workers. The passport link is the first concrete evidence of operational support by Libya.
- Abu Nidal reportedly has bases in Libya.
- Libya reportedly provides financial support and training to several radical Palestinian groups.

### Support for African Insurgents and Terrorists

Tripoli provides arms, training, and money to insurgents in the Sudan, Chad, the Central African Republic and Zaire, and encourages them to conduct terrorist attacks. Qadhafi usually prefers to ensure plausible denial in acts of terrorism which Libya sponsors. The use of surrogates is one way in which he distances Libya from attacks; many of the surrogates belong to dissident groups whom Libya supports. Libya is particularly active in supporting these groups in sub-Saharan Africa.

- In February 1985, Chad complained to the UN that Libya had attempted to assassinate President Habre in September 1984. Photographs of the Libyan-made attache case bomb that was to be used in the attack were provided as evidence.
- Tripoli funds, trains, and arms Zairian dissidents and then sends them home on terrorist and subversive missions. Zairian officials claim to have thwarted a Libyan-sponsored plot against President Mobutu in September 1985.
- Libya has conducted extensive subversive activity in Sudan since the April 1985 coup that overthrew the Nimeiri regime. No terrorist incidents have occurred to date, but a terrorist network is in place and could be activated at any time.

### Activities in Latin America and Asia

Qadhafi appears increasingly intent on extending his revolution to areas far removed from Libya. He has provided funding and arms to dissident groups in Asia and Latin America.

In the Caribbean, Libya hopes to gain political influence and undermine US and French interests. According to local press,

Tripoli offered dissident support on the condition that they perform acts of violence. According to Colombian authorities the M-19 in Colombia receives support--including money and arms--from Libya.

The Libyan effort in Asia and the Pacific is less substantial but growing. Most Libyan activity is subversive--the provision of funds and training to dissidents--but Tripoli occasionally offers support for specific events.

31 December 1985

Chronology of Libyan Troublemaking 1980-851985

December	Italy/Austria	Passports used by Abu Nidal terrorists in attack on El Al counter provided by Libya.
November	Malta:	Hijacking of Egyptair airliner by Abu Nidal supporters may have involved Libyan support.
October	Greece	Libyan merchant wounded in Athens by two gunmen the victim had left Libya five years earlier.
September	Tunisia	Libyan diplomat smuggles about 100 letter bombs addressed to journalists into Tunisia. Several explode injuring two postal workers and causing Tunisia to sever diplomatic relations.
May	United States:	A Libyan diplomat at the United Nations was declared persona non grata, and 16 non-official Libyans were subpoenaed to appear before a United States grand jury in connection with a plot to kill dissidents in several different states.
April	West Germany:	Moroccan citizen resident in the FRG since 1960 killed by Libyan, who was arrested at the scene.
	West Germany:	Anti-Qadhafi Libyan student killed in Bonn by Libyan gunman who was arrested. The assassin also wounded two German passersby, one seriously. The victim had been a target of the Libyan regime for at least two years.
	Cyprus:	Libyan businessman assassinated in downtown Nicosia by an unidentified gunman. The victim was the director of an offshore holding company and was believed to be an opponent of the Libyan regime.
March	Italy:	Libyan jeweler murdered in his shop in Rome. A silencer-equipped pistol was left at the scene by the assassin.
February	Austria:	Former Libyan Ambassador to Austria severely wounded by two shots fired from a car outside his home in Vienna. The victim had supported Qadhafi's seizure of power in 1969, but he quit his post in disgust at the regime in 1980.

1984

November	Egypt:	President Mubarak announces that four assassins sent to Egypt by Libya to kill former Libyan Prime Minister Bakoush had been arrested and forced to send fake pictures to the Libyan Embassy in Malta showing Bakoush apparently dead. Official Libyan press sources then claimed Bakoush had been executed by suicide squads sent abroad "to liquidate enemies of the revolution."
September	Italy:	A Libyan exile was found gagged and strangled in a hotel in Rome. The victim had been the subject of Libyan requests for deportation to Libya.
	Chad:	Chadians discover plot to assassinate President Habre with an attache case bomb. Evidence of the plot, including photographs of the bomb, was provided to the United Nations the following February when Chad lodged a complaint against Libya.
August	United Kingdom:	One of six Libyans awaiting trial for bomb attacks in London in March, 1983 found shot to death in a London apartment. The victim may have been silenced by the Libyan government.
	Belgium:	A bomb wrecks a car parked in front of the Zairian Embassy in Brussels.
July	Belgium:	A bomb exploded in the Brussels office of Air Zaire.
	Red Sea:	Libya mined the Red Sea, damaging 18 merchant ships of varying nationalities.
	Greece:	Two Libyan students found murdered in their apartment in a crime reminiscent of Libyan killings of anti-Qadhafi students in 1980 and 1981. The two were beaten, strangled, and gagged before being shot twice in the back.
June	Greece:	Anti-Qadhafi Libyan editor of an Arab newspaper in Athens killed by two men on a motorbike.
	Greece:	A Libyan-born citizen known to distribute anti-Qadhafi literature at his store shot by a Libyan employee of Libyan Arab Airlines.
May	Libya:	Jana, the official Libyan news agency, announces "the Libyan masses have decided to form suicide commandos to chase traitors and stray dogs wherever they are and liquidate them physically."

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April	United Kingdom:	A bomb hidden in an unclaimed suitcase probably unloaded from a Libyan airliner explodes at London's Heathrow Airport, injuring 25.
	Libya:	A number of British subjects in Libya arrested on trumped-up charges as hostages in order to pressure British government during siege of Libyan People's Bureau in London.
	United Kingdom:	British policewoman killed and 11 anti-Qadhafi demonstrators wounded by gunfire from London Libyan People's Bureau. After a siege, British authorities found weapons and spent shell casings in the vacated embassy.
March	United Kingdom:	Four bombs explode in London and Manchester near homes of Libyan exiles or at businesses frequented by them. Over 25 people injured. Three other bombs defused. Nine Libyan suspects arrested.
	Sudan:	One Libyan TU-22 bomber drops bombs on Omdurman, Sudan, site of a radio transmitter used by anti-Qadhafi oppositionists.
February	Libya:	Following annual Libyan General People's Congress, the Libyan Revolutionary Committees announce that all Libyan exiles must return to Libya or face "the death penalty."
	Libya:	Libyan authorities take no action while a mob burned the Jordanian Embassy in Tripoli.
	Congo:	Chadian dissidents ready to negotiate with Government of Chad threatened in Brazzaville, Congo.
<u>1983</u>		
August	Upper Volta:	Libya gave material support to coup in Upper Volta.
July	Chad:	Libya invaded Chad for the second time. Occupation continues into 1985.
June	West Germany:	Eight Libyan students in West Germany, all members of an anti-Qadhafi group, complain Libyan agents are harassing and threatening them.
February	Libya:	Libyan General People's Congress warn all Libyans in exile to return home or face the "anger of the Libyan people."

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1982

No incidents known.

1981

November	Sudan:	Several bombs explode near government installations in Khartoum.
October	Sudan:	Planned assassination of visiting Chadian official, Hussein Habre, failed when those sent to conduct the operation surrendered.
	Egypt:	Two bombs explode in luggage being unloaded from a plane coming from Libya via Malta.
August	Libya:	Two Libyan SU-22s that fired at US Navy F-14s over Gulf of Sidra shot down.
July	United States:	Anti-Qadhafi Libyan student killed Ogden, Utah.
June	Sudan:	Bomb explodes in front of Chadian Embassy in Khartoum.
February	Italy:	Libyan gunmen open fire on passengers arriving at Rome's airport on a flight from Algiers. Prominent anti-Qadhafi exile was the target.

1980

November	United Kingdom:	Anti-Qadhafi Libyan student brutally murdered in London.
	United Kingdom:	Two children of an anti-Qadhafi Libyan poisoned by eating peanuts containing thalium.
October	Chad:	Libyan forces occupied Chad. Qadhafi attempted to force a Libya-Chad union.
	Gambia:	Libyan subversion in Gambia caused break in relations. Senegalese troops intervene under a mutual defense treaty.
June	Italy:	Anti-Qadhafi exile wounded in Rome.
	Italy:	Libyan exile killed in Milan within hours after expiration of a deadline set by Qadhafi for all Libyan exiles to return home.
May	Italy:	Libyan exile shot at in Rome. The arrested Libyan gunman says he was sent by Libya "to kill an enemy of the people."

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	Greece:	Libyan exile killed in Athens. His throat was slit.
	Italy:	Libyan businessman found strangled to death in Rome.
	West Germany:	Libyan exile gunned down in Bonn.
	Italy:	Libyan exile killed in Rome by two gunshots to the head.
April	United Kingdom:	Libyan lawyer shot and killed in London.
	Italy:	Well known Libyan businessman killed. The arrested assassin said he was an enemy of Colonel Qadhafi.
	United Kingdom:	Two gunmen kill an anti-Qadhafi Libyan journalist.
February	Libya:	Tunisian and French Embassies in Tripoli sacked and burned by a mob while Libyan authorities took no action.